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From: Salemi, Charles (DPH)
Sent: Friday, April 13, 2007 2:05 PM
To: DeMaria, Alfred (DPH)
Cc: Nassif, Julianne (DPH)
Subject: RE: letter boston drug audit
Attachments: Boston PD sample inquiry.doc

Dr. DeMaria, Here is the response letter I would like to send to Sgt. Matthews of the Boston PD. It deals with his request to audit a list of drug samples that we tested. This letter only deals with the items that he requested we look at. This letter is not intended to address any errors we may find with samples other than these particular Boston items. A separate response will be drafted to respond to any errors we find outside of these Boston samples. Please make any corrections or suggestions. The letter is the last 2 pages of my file. Chuck S.

From: DeMaria, Alfred (DPH) [<mailto:Alfred.Demaria@state.ma.us>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 9:17 AM
To: Lawler, Michael (DPH); Salemi, Charles (DPH)
Subject: RE: FYI breaking news on illegal distribution of Rx

Antibiotics are also sold in pet stores, and I know people are taking advantage of that for self-medication. The products are actual pharmaceuticals packaged and Fishicycline and Fishicillin for use in aquariums.

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From: Lawler, Michael (DPH)
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 9:09 AM
To: DeMaria, Alfred (DPH); Salemi, Charles (DPH)
Subject: FYI breaking news on illegal distribution of Rx

This morning National Public Radio broke the story of the distribution of prescription drugs in Boston. Ethnic grocery stores are apparently selling Rx medicines to their local clientele, who are self diagnosing and self medicating. The most frequently mentioned "med" is an "ampicillin" tab from a "pharmaceutical company in the Dominican Republic. A physician in a Dorchester clinic (Codman Square) discovered the phenomenon through interviews of his patients. Self-medication is pursued for several days until patients "feel better". One ethnic variation is for women to take antibiotics for "female cleansing" following menses. The story is posted on the net at wbur.org.